



KAREN BASS
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
37TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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739

July 16, 2014

Mr. Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

We write to ask for the Commission's full consideration of the \$58.5 million sale of three Nexstar Broadcasting Group TV stations to Marshall Broadcast Group (MBG), a proposed Joint Sales Agreement deal that would nearly double the number of African American-owned, full-power, commercial TV stations in the U.S. and simultaneously bring increased local news and sports programming to the Shreveport, Midland and Quad Cities markets.

While we share the FCC's concerns over potential abuses of the JSA arrangement, the proposed MBG/Nexstar deal is worthy of your consideration for three key reasons:

- 1) **It honors two of the FCC's prime objectives: The promotion and protection of diversity and localism.**
 - a. Diversity: Only a handful of the nation's nearly 1,400 full-power, commercial TV stations are black-owned, an abysmal figure that represents not much more than a statistical rounding error. FCC approval of this deal would represent a good first step toward its goal of promoting diversity in ownership and programming.
 - b. Localism: Marshall Broadcast Group and Nexstar have pledged to air nearly 40 additional hours of local news and sports programming on the 3 stations, providing area viewers with what they want most – local content that matters to them and makes a difference in their lives.
- 2) **Marshall Broadcast Group has pledged to employ and contract a higher percentage of minority professionals, providing increased career opportunities for people of color in media and in broadcasting (where minorities, of course, are woefully underrepresented).**

Marshall Broadcast Group has committed to providing a broad diversity of programming designed to empower, entertain, enlighten and educate viewers from a wide array of ethnic and economic backgrounds.

Although the FCC recently voted to restrict opportunities for JSAs in broadcasting due largely to concerns over possible abuses, we were encouraged to learn that your body would consider waiving restrictions for broadcasters that provide public interest benefits, including diversity of ownership for new entrants in broadcasting—especially minorities and women—and increased programming for traditionally underserved audiences, including racial and ethnic minorities.

We support a more diverse owner base of American television stations and an approval of this deal, pursuant to a waiver of the JSA rule, could create an opportunity to promote more or better local news, public affairs and emergency information, diverse programming.

We ask that your body take a close look at the proposed Nexstar/Marshall Broadcast Group JSA deal and give the sale of 3 Nexstar TV stations to Marshall Broadcast Group your full consideration.

Thank you for your time and attention. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Carrie Kohns, Chief of Staff to Rep. Karen Bass at carrie.kohns@mail.house.gov or 202-225-7084.

Sincerely,

Karen Bass
Barbara Lee
Yvette D. Clarke
Marsha Obeyesekere
Rohit Kell
CP Angel

~~Hugo Wheeler~~
Shirley Julian Lee
John Conyers
Ivan E. Smith
Hon. M. Christina
Eddie Bernice Johnson



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 11, 2014

The Honorable Karen Bass
U.S. House of Representatives
408 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Bass:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending applications requesting Commission authorization to assign the licenses of three television broadcast stations to the Marshall Broadcast Group from Nexstar Broadcasting Group. I appreciate hearing about your views.

The underlying applications were accepted for filing in the Commission's Media Bureau on June 9, 2014, with an amendment received July 2, 2014. As you note, Marshall has filed a waiver request in response to the March 31, 2014, Commission decision to attribute a television Joint Sales Agreement as ownership where one station sells more than 15 percent of the weekly advertising time on behalf of another station in the same market.

Please be assured that the Bureau staff will carefully review the Marshall applications and waiver request, as well as any related information filed with the Commission. The Commission reviews proposed transactions on a case-by-case basis and, among other things, considers the economic effects of proposals and whether planned transactions are consistent with Commission policies intended to promote competition, diversity, and localism in the broadcast industry. Once all of the required information has been received and evaluated, we will act on the proposed transactions referenced above as expeditiously as possible.

I appreciate this opportunity to respond to your thoughtful comments, and hope that this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

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Tom Wheeler



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 11, 2014

The Honorable Donna Christensen
U.S. House of Representatives
1510 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Christensen:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending applications requesting Commission authorization to assign the licenses of three television broadcast stations to the Marshall Broadcast Group from Nexstar Broadcasting Group. I appreciate hearing about your views.

The underlying applications were accepted for filing in the Commission's Media Bureau on June 9, 2014, with an amendment received July 2, 2014. As you note, Marshall has filed a waiver request in response to the March 31, 2014, Commission decision to attribute a television Joint Sales Agreement as ownership where one station sells more than 15 percent of the weekly advertising time on behalf of another station in the same market.

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Tom Wheeler



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 11, 2014

The Honorable Yvette Clarke
U.S. House of Representatives
2351 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Clarke:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending applications requesting Commission authorization to assign the licenses of three television broadcast stations to the Marshall Broadcast Group from Nexstar Broadcasting Group. I appreciate hearing about your views.

The underlying applications were accepted for filing in the Commission's Media Bureau on June 9, 2014, with an amendment received July 2, 2014. As you note, Marshall has filed a waiver request in response to the March 31, 2014, Commission decision to attribute a television Joint Sales Agreement as ownership where one station sells more than 15 percent of the weekly advertising time on behalf of another station in the same market.

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Tom Wheeler



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 11, 2014

The Honorable Marcia Fudge
U.S. House of Representatives
2344 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Fudge:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending applications requesting Commission authorization to assign the licenses of three television broadcast stations to the Marshall Broadcast Group from Nexstar Broadcasting Group. I appreciate hearing about your views.

The underlying applications were accepted for filing in the Commission's Media Bureau on June 9, 2014, with an amendment received July 2, 2014. As you note, Marshall has filed a waiver request in response to the March 31, 2014, Commission decision to attribute a television Joint Sales Agreement as ownership where one station sells more than 15 percent of the weekly advertising time on behalf of another station in the same market.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 11, 2014

The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee
U.S. House of Representatives
2160 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Jackson Lee:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending applications requesting Commission authorization to assign the licenses of three television broadcast stations to the Marshall Broadcast Group from Nexstar Broadcasting Group. I appreciate hearing about your views.

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WASHINGTON

August 11, 2014

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
U.S. House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Johnson:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending applications requesting Commission authorization to assign the licenses of three television broadcast stations to the Marshall Broadcast Group from Nexstar Broadcasting Group. I appreciate hearing about your views.

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WASHINGTON

August 11, 2014

The Honorable Robin Kelly
U.S. House of Representatives
2419 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Kelly:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending applications requesting Commission authorization to assign the licenses of three television broadcast stations to the Marshall Broadcast Group from Nexstar Broadcasting Group. I appreciate hearing about your views.

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WASHINGTON

August 11, 2014

The Honorable Barbara Lee
U.S. House of Representatives
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Lee:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending applications requesting Commission authorization to assign the licenses of three television broadcast stations to the Marshall Broadcast Group from Nexstar Broadcasting Group. I appreciate hearing about your views.

The underlying applications were accepted for filing in the Commission's Media Bureau on June 9, 2014, with an amendment received July 2, 2014. As you note, Marshall has filed a waiver request in response to the March 31, 2014, Commission decision to attribute a television Joint Sales Agreement as ownership where one station sells more than 15 percent of the weekly advertising time on behalf of another station in the same market.

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WASHINGTON

August 11, 2014

The Honorable Gregory Meeks
U.S. House of Representatives
2234 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Meeks:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending applications requesting Commission authorization to assign the licenses of three television broadcast stations to the Marshall Broadcast Group from Nexstar Broadcasting Group. I appreciate hearing about your views.

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WASHINGTON

August 11, 2014

The Honorable Charles Rangel
U.S. House of Representatives
2354 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rangel:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending applications requesting Commission authorization to assign the licenses of three television broadcast stations to the Marshall Broadcast Group from Nexstar Broadcasting Group. I appreciate hearing about your views.

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WASHINGTON

August 11, 2014

The Honorable John Conyers
U.S. House of Representatives
2426 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Conyers:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending applications requesting Commission authorization to assign the licenses of three television broadcast stations to the Marshall Broadcast Group from Nexstar Broadcasting Group. I appreciate hearing about your views.

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WASHINGTON

August 11, 2014

The Honorable Steve Cohen
U.S. House of Representatives
2402 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cohen:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending applications requesting Commission authorization to assign the licenses of three television broadcast stations to the Marshall Broadcast Group from Nexstar Broadcasting Group. I appreciate hearing about your views.

The underlying applications were accepted for filing in the Commission's Media Bureau on June 9, 2014, with an amendment received July 2, 2014. As you note, Marshall has filed a waiver request in response to the March 31, 2014, Commission decision to attribute a television Joint Sales Agreement as ownership where one station sells more than 15 percent of the weekly advertising time on behalf of another station in the same market.

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